



# GreenStar

COOPERATIVE MARKET

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March 1, 2001

FDA Commissioner  
Dockets Management Branch (HFA 305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fisher's Lane, room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852  
DOCKET #00D-1598 and 00N-1396

Dear Commissioner,

I am writing in regards to Genetically Modified Food Action with the docket numbers 00D-1598 and 00N-1396. The FDA should be a regulator, not a promoter of the food industry. I am growing increasingly concerned about the role of government in industry, and the subsequent decline in my food choice. I urge you to require both labeling and pre-market safety testing of these novel foods that present unique and unforeseen hazards because I wish to avoid these foods for my family, friends, and myself. If foods are not properly labeled, I do not know what is in the food I am buying.

I am concerned with the quality of my food and its impact on human and environmental health. Therefore I urge you to rethink your position on GM foods and to require both pre-market safety testing and labeling of these new foods – so that I may feel confident that the products I buy do not contain Genetically Modified Foods!

*I find this horrific!! I'm a pregnant mom!*

Sincerely,

*Aleta Weaver*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

*ALETA WEAVER*  
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00D-1598

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## Seven reasons to buy (or grow) organic (and even more if I could fit them)

- **Protect future generations** – The average child receives four times more exposure than an adult to at least 80 widely used cancer-causing pesticides in food.
- **Prevent soil erosion** – Soil is the foundation of the food chain in organic farming, while in conventional farming the soil is used primarily as a medium for holding plants vertically while they are chemically fertilized. American farms are suffering from the worst soil erosion in history.
- **Protect water quality** – The EPA estimates that pesticides - some cancer-causing - contaminate the groundwater in 38 states, polluting the primary source of water for more than half of the country's population.
- **Save energy** – Modern farming uses more petroleum than any other industry. Organic farming relies mainly on labor-intensive practices such as hand weeding and crop rotation.
- **Avoid eating chemicals** – The EPA now considers 60% of all herbicides, 90% of all fungicides, and 30% of all insecticides to be carcinogenic. These chemicals are designed to kill living organisms and are implicated in birth defects, nerve damage, and genetic mutation.
- **Help small farmers** – The United States has lost more than 650,000 family farms in the last decade, while field workers who work with chemicals suffer the highest rates of occupational illness. An estimated 1 million people are poisoned annually by pesticides.
- **Support a true economy** - The true cost of a head of non-organic lettuce is between 2 and 3 dollars. Billions of dollars (tax money) goes to help these agribusinesses produce 'cheap' food, while investing little in sustainable agriculture.



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